

# The Scoop

PUBLICATION OF THE LOUISVILLE METRO OFFICE FOR WOMEN  
Louisville Metro Department of Housing and Family Services  
Kimberly Bunton, Director

2nd Edition, Summer  
2008



Tina Lentz  
Director

Recently the OFW team took a "field trip" to the League of Women Voters. Having three college interns I look for ways to provide meaningful experiences to add to their daily routines of research, web work and community outreach. This proved to be just the thing. No one can argue the depth of Teena Halbig's commitment to making a difference. Her joyful articulation of her passions and values drove our discussion.

What I couldn't help thinking about throughout our visit was how women are the majority in Jefferson County and that we have the potential to influence change – subtly or dramatically – by becoming a community of women supporting women. By networking, supporting and advocating for each other we can "banish the word struggle" from our attitudes and our vocabularies and begin to recognize that "we are the ones we have been waiting for".

Recently, Maria Shriver's work in California resonated with me when I heard her speak of the power of WE. Borrowing from that, I encourage women to connect to each other and facilitate connections to the resources they need; to support the

women in our community so that they may prosper; to serve through acts of civic engagement, leadership and volunteerism; to provide homes for families and build relationships so that all may achieve their dreams; and to empower each other through those relationships.

I understand that it is harder than ever to do this – but doesn't that make it even more critical that we try?

"The time of the lone wolf is over. Gather yourselves."

A Hopi Prayer <http://www.spiritofmaat.com/messages/oct28/hopi.htm>

## Civic Engagement: how you can change your community

### An interview with Teena Halbig President, Louisville League of Women Voters

With the focus of our second issue being civic engagement, what better person to interview than Teena Halbig? As the president of both the Louisville and Kentucky League of Women Voters, Teena Halbig is a community leader and strong advocate for civic engagement.

Looking at Teena's background, you would not easily assume it would lead to where she is today. She earned her B. S. degree and Certificate in Medical Technology from the University of Louisville. She worked as a Microbiologist and Virologist at Jewish Hospital and worked for many years as a medical researcher at UofL. She is also a small business owner, author and the internationally renown artist of Teena's Dolls, which she designs and sculpts herself. Now well established in her craft, she creates designs for companies. Teena and her dolls have appeared on QVC and her dolls sold on HSN. Her creations have also been marketed by such well established companies as J.C. Penney, Wal-Mart and others.

It was a personal interest as a property owner that sparked Teena's involvement in local politics in 1991. When she and her neighbors joined together to fight removal of a 52 acre island in Floyds Fork Creek - she became a leader and co-founder of Floyds Fork Environmental Association. After this victory, she wrote a letter to ask planning and zoning for a protective overlay district. Next she became co-founder of Community Leadership Alliance. During this time she learned to "get involved, and not walk away from the issues," and she hasn't since. Halbig ran for office twice, first as a State Senator in 1998 (garnering nearly 15,000 votes) and then as a State Representative in 2000. Both bids were unsuccessful, but defeat did not dissuade her from remaining involved, and Halbig soon

found herself as an active member of the League of Women Voters of Louisville. Beginning in 2005 and 2006 Louisville League members elected her twice as co-president, then Teena was twice elected as President in 2007 and 2008. Additionally, she began serving as state President of LWV of KY in 2006 and has been re-elected to serve through June 2009.

Teena finds her work at the League to be challenging and rewarding. She encourages all citizens to get informed and to vote in every election. The recent primaries saw a huge increase in voter turn out.

Teena's passion for voting and civic engagement is an inspiration to all. For women looking to become more active in their community, Teena finds the League to be a good fit - offering opportunities for engagement, leadership, empowerment and hands on activities. She encourages men and women to join the League and to get involved in small ways. She went on to encourage all to learn how to get plugged in and to attend debates and Mayor's Community Conversations as well as joining organizations such as the League of Women Voters. To make this easier, she has established a fund in honor of the late Dr. Lillalyce Akers to help pay LWV membership fees for students and older citizens.



For upcoming event information and ways to get involved with the League of Women Voters, please visit [www.lwvlouisville.org](http://www.lwvlouisville.org).

  
Louisville METRO  
OFFICE FOR WOMEN

## Upcoming Mayor's Community Conversations



Monday, August 18  
Thomas Jefferson Middle  
1501 Rangeland Rd

Monday, September 15  
Central High School  
1130 W Chestnut St

Monday, October 20  
Waggener High School  
330 Hubbards Lane

Monday, November 17  
Pleasure Ridge Park HS  
5901 Greenwood Rd.

December: No MCC

All Community  
Conversations begin at  
6:30pm



[www.louisvilleky.gov](http://www.louisvilleky.gov)

## TEN THINGS YOU CAN DO TO GET INVOLVED

It may seem overwhelming to jump right into politics and community activism, but there are limitless ways in which you can directly impact your community and the world around you. Some are simple, some difficult, but each important for helping our city thrive and grow. Below we've listed ten ways you can become a more active citizen in Louisville.

### 1. Vote

There is no easier way to make sure your voice is heard than to vote. This year Election Day is November 4; polls open at 6am and close at 6pm.

### 2. Register a Friend to Vote

Although Jefferson County had a 70% voter turnout rate in the 2004 Presidential Election, the combined number of registered voters who did not vote and people who are not registered to vote totaled nearly 45%! Why not begin to change this by asking your friends and neighbors if they are registered to vote? It's easy and doesn't take much time.

### 3. Attend a Mayor's Community Conversation

Each month Mayor Abramson hosts conversations across the city. These conversations are a unique opportunity to speak directly with the mayor about concerns in your neighborhood. Representatives are also on hand from a wide range of Metro Government departments to connect you to the resources you need (see left hand column for upcoming MCC dates).

### 4. Run for Office

There is a continuing disparity in women serving as elected officials. This isn't because women can't win an election; it is simply because women don't run for office as frequently as their male counterparts. According to a study from Brown University and Union College men are 71 percent more likely to run for political office. The same study showed that when women do run they are just as successful as their male counterparts at every aspect of campaigning, and women win elections at comparable rates to men. Women don't run for office because they don't receive encouragement from party leaders and community activists. Women are also 2/3 more likely to think of themselves as under qualified for political office!

In 1952, former Wisconsin State Assemblywoman, Ruth Bachhuber Doyle said "One fundamental conclusion I've reached is that women won't get elected to anything unless they run for it. If your name isn't on the ballot, you can't get votes." So run!

### 5. Attend a Metro Council Meeting

The Louisville Metro Council meets every other Thursday at 6pm at the Metro Council Chambers. For more information and specific dates please visit their website, [www.louisvilleky.gov/metrocouncil/](http://www.louisvilleky.gov/metrocouncil/)

### 6. Serve on a Board or Commission

Louisville Metro has over 60 boards and commissions ranging from business and economic development to land planning, parks and recreation to public health and public safety. To apply online go to

### 7. Volunteer on a Political Campaign

Do you have a candidate you feel strongly about? Volunteer on their campaign! Helping out on a campaign is a great way to get involved and learn about politics.

### 8. Volunteer for a Non-Profit

Volunteer some time to your favorite non-profit organization. Whether it is data-entry or volunteering at an event, non-profits can always use more woman-power. See back page for a list of women's organizations in Louisville.

### 9. Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is

One way to practice civic engagement is by spending your money wisely. You can do this by either shopping at stores that practice values you share, or by donating money to your favorite cause

### 10. Write a Letter

Want to be heard by your representative? Let them know where you stand on a particular issue by writing a letter, sending an email or calling their office. Better yet, organize a letter writing campaign and get several friends and co-workers involved. Many non-profits have action alerts you can subscribe to via email to be notified when an issue needs your support.

Louisville Metro Government has many opportunities available for you to become civically engaged on a local level. OFW can help you make connections between departments and programs that are in need of volunteers or if you are interested in serving on a Board or Commission. See link below to access page.

OFW Offers New WebPages:

OFW has added several new WebPages to their site. Check out the following and let us know what you think:

- Metro Services to Women and Girls [www.louisvilleky.gov/OFW/LouisvilleMetroServiceToWomen.htm](http://www.louisvilleky.gov/OFW/LouisvilleMetroServiceToWomen.htm)
- Civic Engagement [www.louisvilleky.gov/OFW/CivicEngagement.htm](http://www.louisvilleky.gov/OFW/CivicEngagement.htm)
- Women Owned Businesses [www.louisvilleky.gov/OFW/WOB.htm](http://www.louisvilleky.gov/OFW/WOB.htm)

# Register to Vote



To register to vote, or find your polling location visit the Jefferson County Clerk's website. There, you will find links with information about absentee voting, early voting, voter registration as well as where to find your polling location. You can also find information on becoming a poll worker and contact information for your elected officials.

Please keep in mind that voter registration forms must be post-marked 29 days prior to Election Day. This year that deadline is Monday October 6th. For more information on how to register to vote visit

<http://jeffersoncountyclerk.org> or call (502) 574-6100

**REMEMBER:** Election Day 2008 is Tuesday, November 4th.

## 1838

Kentucky becomes the first state to permit suffrage of any kind; property-owning widows and single women were given the right to vote in school elections.

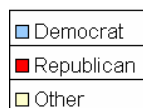
## WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE: fighting for the vote

In 1920, with the passing of the 19th Amendment, women gained the right to vote. The fight for suffrage was long-fought, beginning at the first women's convention in Seneca Falls, New York in 1848. This meeting was the impetus for the women's movement, as well as the battle for suffrage. The Declaration of Sentiments, a document that was adopted at the convention, lists grievances women had about their status as second class citizens. On the top of that list was their lack of access to the electorate.

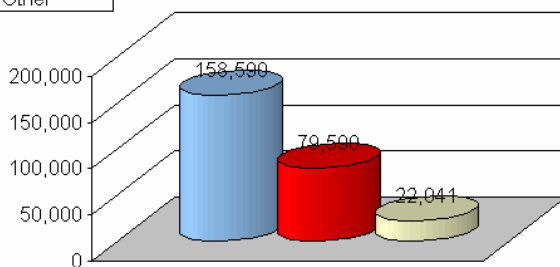
In 1869 Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, who organized the 1848 convention, formed the National American Woman Suffrage Association. The NAWSA obtained a hearing before every Congress from the time it was founded to the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1919. On June 4, 1919 the Women's Suffrage Bill passed Congress and began the ratification process, which took a little over a year. Tennessee was the 38th state to ratify the amendment, and on August 28th 1920 women officially gained the right to vote. The NAWSA is still active in encouraging women to make informed choices at the ballot box as the League of Women Voters.



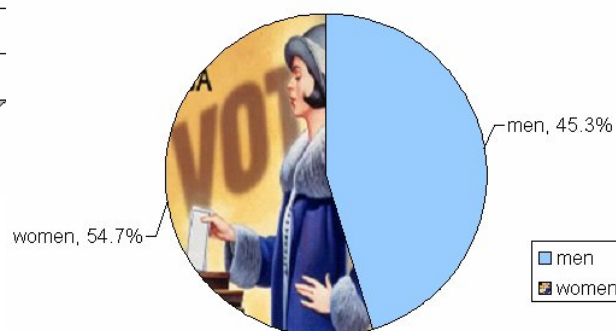
Kentucky Governor Edwin P. Morrow signed the 19th Amendment on January 6th, 1920, making Kentucky the 23rd state to support women's suffrage.



Women Voters by Party Affiliation  
Jefferson County, KY, 2004



Percentage of voters in Jefferson County  
as of May, 2008



\*Information from Kentucky Secretary of State, May 2008

**BIGGEST TURNOUT?** The 2008 election cycle is an exciting one, and all age groups have seen a growth in voter turn out. But no group has seen an increase as high or dramatic as the youth voter turn out. Nationally, young people (18-29 years) had an 11 point increase at the polls, which, in some states, represents a 100% increase from 2006. Given that primary elections generally have lower turn out, we can expect to see an even bigger turn out among young people this November.



# About the Office for Women

The Louisville Metro Office for Women (OFW) uses advocacy and policy to improve the status of all women in the Louisville Metro area and is part of the Advocacy and Public Policy Division within the Louisville Metro Housing and Family Services Department.

The OFW's broad focus includes issues that affect women's physical and mental health, social and economic well-being, employment, housing, political involvement, legal issues, and safety issues such as domestic violence and abuse. We also work to ensure that all services and activities are culturally competent and sensitive to acknowledge and respect the growing diversity in Louisville Metro.

You can contact the OFW by email at [ofw@louisvilleky.gov](mailto:ofw@louisvilleky.gov) or by phone at (502) 574-5360.

## Upcoming Events Where you will find OFW

July 30 - Women and Entrepreneurship Workshop/ 9:00-11:30am at the NIA Center

August 5 - National Night Out/6:00-9:00pm at the Salvation Army in Wyandotte Park

## SPOTLIGHT on Sherri Stovall - VIPS Volunteer

When Sherri Stovall says she is a full-time volunteer, she means it. As an active member of Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) she clocked in an astounding 4,406 hours in 2007 alone, and was awarded the Presidential Volunteer Service Gold Award in 2008. Prior to that she received the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award for Volunteerism. Stovall was also awarded the first ever Kitty Ransdell Award for outstanding service as a volunteer for the Louisville Metro Police Department. The award, which was named after her mother, a fellow VIPS volunteer who passed away last year at the age of 88, was "priceless" according to Stovall.

Between 2004 and 2007, Sherri contributed 15,742 volunteer hours with LMPD. In addition to her extensive volunteer work with VIPS, she also volunteers with several veterans groups. "You may say I am just a volunteer-a-holic, as I love helping people" Stovall said.

Stovall began volunteering in 1999 with the Jefferson County Police Department when there were only 20 volunteers. She now serves as the

coordinator for VIPS for LMPD and the program has grown to 120 volunteers, with a majority of those being women. Time commitments vary, and people "do what they can", volunteering on nights and weekends after their full time jobs. Sherri did share that every hour a volunteer can contribute is very much appreciated.

VIPS is a volunteer opportunity to assist LMPD in day-to-day tasks, such as office duties, as well as helping at community events such as Thunder Over Louisville, the Kentucky Oaks and the Kentucky Derby. According to their website, in 2004, the volunteer program contributed 13,755 hours of assistance to the LMPD with a total savings of \$255,257.11.

If you would like more information on becoming a VIPS volunteer, please contact Susan Bowling at (502) 367-6563.

The Office for Women is partnering with LMPD to hold the first ever Women Citizen's Police Academy training in August 2009. Stay tuned for more information if you are interested in this exciting opportunity to get involved.

## LOCAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS: get involved

Louisville Metro Office for Women  
[www.louisvilleky.gov/ofw](http://www.louisvilleky.gov/ofw)

Junior League of Louisville  
[www.juniorleaguelouisville.org](http://www.juniorleaguelouisville.org)

Business and Professional Women of Kentucky  
[www.bpwlouisville.org](http://www.bpwlouisville.org)

The National Council of Negro Women: Louisville Section  
[www.ncnw.org](http://www.ncnw.org)

National Association of Women Business Owners  
[www.nawbolouisville.org](http://www.nawbolouisville.org)

Kentucky Foundation for Women  
[www.kfw.org](http://www.kfw.org)

Women 4 Women  
[www.women-4-women.org](http://www.women-4-women.org)

Kentucky Federation of Women's Clubs  
[www.kyfwc.org](http://www.kyfwc.org)

Metropolitan Louisville Women's Political Caucus  
[www.nwpc.org](http://www.nwpc.org)

Kentucky Commission on Women  
[www.women.ky.gov](http://www.women.ky.gov)

National Council of Jewish Women  
[www.ncjwlou.org](http://www.ncjwlou.org)

League of Women Voters  
[www.lwvlouisville.org](http://www.lwvlouisville.org)

Women Leading Kentucky  
[www.womenleadingky.com](http://www.womenleadingky.com)

The Zonta Club of Louisville  
[www.zontacluboflouisville.com](http://www.zontacluboflouisville.com)

eWomenNetwork  
[www.eWomenNetwork.com](http://www.eWomenNetwork.com)

### The Louisville Women's Listserv: Our goals are to....

- Raise awareness and knowledge regarding issues that impact women in our community
- Increase women's participation in government
- Improve access to resources and information that serve the needs of women and girls
- Foster and enhance collaboration
- Develop a venue for networking and discussion